

REMARKS

Double Patenting

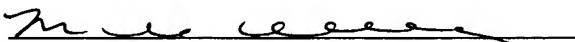
The Examiner has rejected claims 24-30 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent 6,631,540. Submitted, herewith, is a timely filed Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) to overcome the nonstatutory double patenting rejection. U.S. Patent No. 6,631,540 is commonly owned with the present application. As such, claims 24-30 are now in a condition for allowance.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), applicant(s) hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: 11/22/04



Michael A. Bernadicou

Reg. No. 35,934

Customer No.: 008791
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300